

**Certaine Orders deuised and set downe by the Queenes most excellent  
 Maieslie, with the aduise of her most honourable priuie Counsell, for mitiga-  
 tion of the strictnesse of certaine poyntes in statutes standing in force, tou-  
 ching the making of wollen Cloth within the Counties of Suffolke, Norfolke,  
 and Essex, graunted by her Maieslie the xiiij. of March, in the xxxiiij.  
 yeere of her Highnesse raigne.**



**F**irst, forasmuch as Clothes commonly called short Clothes, made in  
 the Counties of Suffolke & Essex, are for the most part caried into the  
 parts beyond the Seas, and there vttered and solde, and but very fewe  
 therof within this Realme: Her Maiesties will and pleasure therfore  
 is, that the same shalbe allowed to passe, as good and marchantable  
 clothes.

2 Item, wheras by the Statutes now being in force, the said clothes  
 called short clothes being well thicked, ought to containe in length (be-  
 ing through wet) betweene xxiii. and xxv. yards, yarde and ynche of the  
 rule, and being well scoured & fully dyed, ought to weigh lxxiii. pounce  
 the cloth at the least: forasmuch as the said Clothes by reason of row-  
 ing, dressing and shearing, doe lose of their weight limited by the said  
 Statute: Therefore her Maiesties pleasure is, that the saide Clothiers shalbe tollerated, for þ weight  
 of foure pounds in euery such Cloth, well wrought and shorne, and that euery of those Clothes being  
 well rowed, shorne, dressed, cleane scoured, dye and readie to sale, which shal weigh threescore pounds  
 the cloth at the least, shalbe allowed to be good and sufficient. And that in like manner for the long  
 Clothes made in those Counties, allowance shalbe made of fife poundes in euery long Cloth, being  
 wrought, shorne, and dressed accordingly.

3 Item, that none of the saide short Clothes shalbe stretched or strained aboue two yards in length  
 at the most: And that none of them being dye, & readie to sale, shal containe any more or longer mea-  
 sure then xxvii. yards, yarde and ynche of the rule at the most.

4 Item, that the colours of all those Clothes, and all other Clothes whatsoever within the saide  
 Counties, being died in wool, Varne, or cloth mingled or bmingled, shalbe good, sure, and true in al  
 respects.

5 Item, her Maiesties will and pleasure is, that the said short clothes weighing threescore pounds  
 the cloth at the least, and not exceeding in length xxvii. yardes at the most, and being cleane scoured,  
 fully wrought, dyed and well dressed, as is aforesaid: And the saide long clothes being of such weight  
 at the least, as is before allowed, not exceeding the length of xxvi. yardes, yarde and ynche of the rule,  
 and not being in breadth aboue that which the Lawes and Statutes doe allowe, and being wel dressed,  
 as is aforesaide: And also all bningled short Clothes not exceeding xxvii. yardes in length as  
 aforesaide, hauing their full weight of threescore and foure poundes, shalbe allowed and permitted to  
 passe without tryall by water, by any searcher or searchers.

6 Item, that it shalbe lawful for all Searchers to make search of all the saide Clothes, wheresoe-  
 uer the same may be found, for the colours, weight, and length thereof, according to these orders.

7 Item, that the list of any short Cloth shall not be in breadth aboue one nasse at the most, and shall  
 not weigh by common iudgement aboue fife poundes at the vttermost, and no list of the long Cloth  
 shalbe in weight aboue sixe poundes.

8 And for the auoyding of great deceites commonly practised by badde Clothiers, in carr. ing of  
 their false and insufficiently made Clothes to Clothworkers houses and other priuate places in and  
 neere about the Citie of London, and there vttering and selling the same, not bringing them to the  
 open and common market of Blackwell Hall: Her Maiestie straightly chargeth and commaundeth,  
 that all Clothiers of the saide Counties, shall hereafter bring to the common market of Blackwell  
 Hall aforesaide, all such Clothes, as they or any of them shall bring, or cause to be brought to the said  
 Citie, or to the Suburbes or places neere thereunto, and there shall vtter and shewe the same, whe-  
 ther they were solde before or not. And that no Clothier, or anie other person within or neere the  
 saide Citie, shall keepe or suffer anie priuate Markettes or sales of any such Clothes to be vled or suffe-  
 red in their or anie of their houses, shoppes or warehouses. And that no Clothier shall hereafter take  
 or enioye any benefite of these orders, and tollerations for any their Clothes vttered or brought in,  
 or to the saide Citie of London, or the Suburbes or places neere vnto the same: saving those onely  
 which shall bring the same their Clothes to the sayde common market of Blackwell Hall, and for  
 their Clothes made, and wrought according to these Articles. And that all Searchers shall haue  
 power and authoritie, to make searche for all defectiue and insufficient Clothes in all other priuate  
 houses, shoppes, and places within the sayde Citie of London, and the Suburbes thereof, according  
 to the Statutes in those cases provided.

9 And to the end the sayde Clothiers shall not pretende any ignorance, or lacke of knowledge of  
 her Highnesse pleasure in this behalfe: Her Maiestie willet and commaundeth, that the Mayo: of  
 London before the twentieth day of this moneth of March 1589. shall cause the same to bee openly  
 published, and declared in the common market of Blackwell Hall aforesaid.

10 And for as much as there is great fraude and inconuenience in the ouerstraining of Clothes:  
 and for that, that in those partes there are two sorts of clothes made, the one called a long cloth, which



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is to containe in length betweene xxviii. and thirtie yardes, yarde and ynche of the rule: And the o-  
ther called a short cloth, which is to containe in length betweene thre and twentie and five and twen-  
tie yardes of like measure: Her Maiestie chargeth and commandeth, that in the said Counties, all long  
Centors shalbe cut to xxvi. yardes and a foote, yarde and ynch of the rule: And all short Centors and  
Baches to xxviii. yardes and a foote, yarde and ynch of the rule, and that one Centor shal not bee per-  
mitted to stand neere to another by two yardes at the least: And that all Centors which are not agree-  
able to the lengths aforesaide, shalbe cut and reformed before the feast of Easter, nowe next comming.  
And that no short cloth shalbe tentored vpon any long Centor, vpon such paynes as the Lawe doeth  
appoynt.

11 And finally, her Maiestie willet and commandeth, that no person which shal infringe and  
breake these orders or any of them, saving for the matter of the weight, shal in any wise enjoy or claime  
any benefite thereby, but shalbe subject to all the penalties and forfeitures limited and appointed in  
and by the said statutes. And that all Searchers, informers, and all other persons, to whome it shall or  
may appertaine, shall and may thereupon haue and vse like remedie, benefite, and aduantage against  
euery one so offending, as though these orders had neuer bene made.

12 And concerning the Reformation of the weight aboue mencioned, considering the penaltie for  
want of weight, for euery pounce not exceeding foure poundes, is two shillings, and for euery pounce  
being aboue foure poundes, is five shillings by the Statute: It is ordered, that the Statute shall be  
executed vpon all Clothes made contrary to the forme of these Articles, as is aforesaid: The aforesaide  
orders to continue onely during her Maiesties pleasure.

God saue the Queene.

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1589.